

TRIBUTE TO FARGO MAYOR  
DENNIS WALAKER

**HON. KEVIN CRAMER**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 4, 2014*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, the good people of Fargo, North Dakota have broken hearts today. Their mayor, Dennis Walaker, died suddenly this week, sending a wave of emotion across my entire state.

Mayor Walaker epitomized what it means to be the people's servant, not because he was perfect—he certainly was not—but because he was as common as an uncommon politician can be.

Denny earned the top job in the city by virtue of his service as a city employee famous for fighting floods. The legend was solidified as he defied the feds and the odds by applying his uncommon common sense to the 2009 record flood fight, keeping his city safe and his people in their homes.

While Denny's famous flood fights put him on a big stage, it was the character of the man that was really under the spotlight more than his competence as a civil engineer.

Denny was always where he needed to be. He wore a suit and tie when he had to, but was more comfortable wearing, well, more comfortable clothes. It's hard to describe without cliché, but Denny was loved because he was one of the people he represented, whoever they were.

He was one of "them."

He was always available and accountable, and expected the same of other public officials at every level. Denny's communication style was more blunt than eloquent, but always memorable and effective. While he didn't shy away from criticizing legislators at the state and federal levels—in fact he seemed to relish it—he wasn't offensive. Perhaps because he expected the same clarity from us as he provided to us.

He was a good example to all of us. Not every politician could or even should match his personality or style; we should strive to match his character.

I pray for Denny's family and our city as we mourn, but am confident the memories we carry will keep him close to us for a very long time.

IN HONOR OF STEVE PRICE

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 4, 2014*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my dear friend and colleague Representative LOIS CAPPs to honor the career of a remarkable public servant whose work and character should serve as a model for us all. Mr. Steve Price is retiring from CalTrans after nearly 35 years in various engineering positions. In that time Steve carved out a reputation for integrity and unfailing honesty. If it could be done, Steve would make it happen. If an idea was impractical, Steve let you know. Simply put, Steve made government—at least the portion that he controlled—work for the people of California.

We had the great pleasure to getting to know Steve in his capacity as the maintenance supervisor for CalTrans District 5, which encompasses both of our congressional districts. California's Highway 1 connects our districts from Moro Bay and Hearst Castle in the south up through Carmel and Monterey in the north. Along the way the road passes through Big Sur and offers one of the most spectacular views of land and sea anywhere in the world. But as Steve likes to remind us all, that land has been falling into the sea for eons and the highway's construction 80 years ago did nothing to slow that. So every time a slide, wildfire, or washed out bridge closes the highway, we find ourselves sitting at the table with Steve and the local community working out solutions to keep the coast highway open. And it has been in those community settings that Steve's particular brand of diplomacy made its greatest impact. Where some work to sooth community anxieties with gentle words and reassuring platitudes, Steve offers unvarnished honesty. Steve's presence in the room always helped bring the conversation back to the practical.

But above all, Steve was a tremendously skilled and innovative engineer. He has been a strong advocate for worker safety and sought out opportunities to include maintenance staff in the project design process. Steve has received a Tranny Award in 1995 for leading the Caltrans effort on the Hearst Scenic Conservation purchase; acted as the Interim State Traffic engineer; participated in Transportation Research Board study on Design of In-Vehicle Driving Behavior and Crash Risk Study; received the Karl Moskowitz award for Outstanding Engineering in Transportation in 2014; and served as the State Pavement Engineer in 2014, just to name a few accomplishments. He has also applied his engineering skills to aid in Haiti's recovery from the devastating 2010 earthquake.

Mr. Speaker, we know we speak for the whole House in offering this body's gratitude for a job well done. Steve's leadership will be missed by us, his colleagues, and numerous communities up and down the Central Coast. We wish Steve and his family every success in retirement and can rest assured that his voice will continue to be heard.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE  
OF MARY J. ARMSTRONG

**HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 4, 2014*

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, Mary J. Armstrong served as my District Representative for California's 35th Congressional District, which includes the communities of Bloomington, Chino, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Rialto in San Bernardino County, and the city of Pomona in Los Angeles County.

Mary J. Armstrong capacity of responsibilities included preparing and presenting certificates of recognition, assisting with the planning of community events and attending committee hearings and meetings.

Mary J. Armstrong managed and researched constituents' casework, not limited to staffing me at various events and meetings as needed and represented me on occasion,

worked as a liaison with federal agencies and addressed a variety of issues and concerns of the constituents of the 35th Congressional District.

Having served the State of California for eleven years, Mary J. Armstrong began her legislative career in 2003, with Assembly Member Mervyn M. Dymally, representing the 52nd Assembly District and transitioned to the 32nd Senatorial District, and two years with the 35th Congressional District with me.

Mary and her husband, Jesse Armstrong, are the proud parents of four Children, Stephanie, Calvin, Anthony and Angela, and grandparents of six grandchildren and one great grand child.

Mary J. Armstrong is dependable, adaptable and a resourceful team player, she possesses the persistence and personality to excel in competitive markets and dynamic fast-paced environments and she rendered outstanding service to me in providing quality service to the people of the 32nd Senatorial District and the 35th Congressional District and throughout the State of California.

Mr. Speaker, I fully extend all due recognition to Mary J. Armstrong for her many exceptional achievements and personal loyalty for exemplifying the character and proficiency that mark the best of California's legislative staff.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply dismayed and concerned by the decision of the grand jury not to indict Ferguson, Missouri Police Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting of Michael Brown. Based on my interaction with constituents I expect that many thousands of others share that response and will express their concerns in peaceful public protests. I call upon law enforcement in Missouri, and all across our nation, to show all possible restraint and sensitivity and allow the American people to exercise their First Amendment right and responsibility in expressing their opinions over this event and similar recent events.

The events leading to the shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed African American teenager, mirror a horrifying string of similar deaths and shootings of African American men at the hands of law enforcement all across the country which seem to have escalated in recent weeks: Eric Garner (43), Staten Island, New York—July 17; John Crawford (22), Beavercreek, Ohio—August 5; Ezell Ford (25), Los Angeles, California—August 11; Dante Parker, Victorville, California—August 12; Levar Jones (35), Columbia, South Carolina—September 4 and most recently Tamir E. Rice (12) in Cleveland, Ohio—November 23. According to the Chicago Tribune (8/26/2014) "Chicago police shot 36 people last year, 26 of them African American males, and have shot 34 people so far this year." The circumstances surrounding many of those shootings remain unclear or unknown. The emerging pattern of these events raise significant, troubling questions about the protection of the civil rights of Americans, especially young African American males, in encounters with law enforcement.